



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

FEB 14 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Shuster:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2013, regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) listening session in Pennsylvania on reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants.

EPA is working diligently to address carbon pollution from power plants. In June 2013 President Obama called on agencies across the federal government, including EPA, to take action to cut carbon pollution to protect our country from the impacts of climate change, and to lead the world in this effort. His call included a directive for EPA "to work expeditiously to complete carbon pollution standards for both new and existing power plants." Currently, there are no federal standards in place to reduce carbon pollution from the country's largest source. The President also directed EPA to work in partnership with states, as they will play a central role in establishing and implementing standards for existing power plants, and, at the same time, with leaders in the power sector, labor leaders, non-governmental organizations, other experts, tribal officials, other stakeholders, and members of the public on issues informing the design of carbon pollution standards for power plants.

As we consider guidelines for existing power plants, EPA is engaged in vigorous and unprecedented outreach with the public, key stakeholders, and the states, including Pennsylvania. The eleven listening sessions EPA held throughout the country were attended by thousands of people, representing nearly every state and a broad range of stakeholders, including many from the coal industry. In addition, EPA leadership and senior staff in Washington, D.C., and our ten regional offices have been meeting with industry leaders and CEOs from the coal, oil, and natural gas sectors; state, tribal, and local government officials from every region of the country, including Pennsylvania; and environmental and public health groups, faith groups, labor groups, and others. Our meetings with state governments have encompassed leadership and staff from state environment departments, state energy departments, and state public utility commissions. We are doing this because we want—and need—all available information about what is important to and unique about each state and stakeholder. We know that guidelines require flexibility and sensitivity to state and regional differences. To this end, we welcome feedback and ideas from you as well as your constituents about how EPA should develop and implement carbon pollution guidelines for existing power plants under the Clean Air Act.

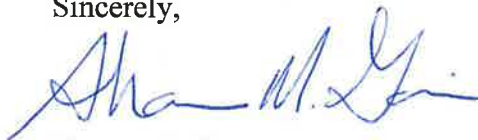


While our outreach has been among the most extensive in the agency's history, we continue to seek the views of your state's residents, and, in the spirit of partnership, welcome your assistance to use your extensive networks to solicit additional feedback. Interested stakeholders can send their thoughts through email at carbonpollutioninput@epa.gov. Stakeholders can also learn more about what we are doing at www.epa.gov/carbonpollutionstandard. I welcome you to provide a link to our website from yours, and to share any other information about EPA's public engagement activities with the citizens of your state.

Please note that the public meetings we've been holding to date and other outreach efforts are happening well before we propose guidelines. When we issue the draft guidelines in June 2014, a more formal public comment period will follow, as with all rules, and more opportunities for public hearings and stakeholder outreach and engagement.

Again, thank you for your letter, and for helping us develop a commonsense, pragmatic proposal that works for the citizens and businesses of Pennsylvania, as well as the rest of the nation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Kinshasa Brown-Perry, EPA's Pennsylvania Liaison, at 215-814-5404.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Garvin".

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

